In the schools… Rhi Jackson

February 25, 2016

7:30 AM

This morning has been nothing short of interesting. I went to bed around 12:30 last night and had an alarm set for 5:45AM and 6:00AM giving myself plenty of time to get ready in the morning, I drifted off to sleep optimistic about how my first day as a practicum health/gym teacher would be.

I’m having this dream that I woke up at 6:55AM when I’m supposed to meet my carpool on campus in 20 minutes and I have to rush around the house and run to campus just to make it on time. This dream jolts me awake, and realizing it was just a dream I settle in my bed a little assuming it was around 5AM and my alarm hadn’t gone off yet…Boy was I wrong! My dream had actually been happening to me. It was 6:50 and I had 10 minutes to get dressed, pack my lunch, pack for school, blah blah blah… I was a little worried, but not too much because I had gotten ready in 10 minutes for class before, what’s the difference? Well, when I realized that I had to be out of my apartment by 7:00 to stop by my girlfriend’s house before meeting my carpool at 7:15 and it was already 7:05 I knew this mornings events were going to continue to not go my way. I rushed out of the house throwing random scraps of food into my lunch box and went to my girlfriend’s house to grab a few things realizing it was 7:12… I’m walking as fast as I can to get to Lockwood where I would meet my carpool and they were no where to be found. I had a dead phone, a laptop with no WiFi, and no other way to contact anyone to give me a ride. At this point I was freaking out. My first thought was to have my roommate drive me, but I didn’t have time to walk all the way home and wait for her to get ready, so my next thought was to go back to my girlfriend’s house and to borrow her car for the day. I got there and couldn’t find her keys anywhere… come to find out she had them with her at practice, but anyway as I was running around her house searching high and low for keys, her neighbor Nikki walked by and I begged her to give me a ride, she did.

I finally arrived at the Middle School at 7:31 thinking I was only a minute late… I walk in to sign myself in at the front desk and I am informed that the students have an hour delay. So! I went through all of this rushing and freaking out for nothing because I ended up being at the school an hour early. After all of that I sat in the office waiting for my mentor to show up and then we began our day.

Mrs. Kerr brought me to her office to show me where I could leave my things and then gave me a tour of the building. Her classes are usually all over the place and end up being in different rooms because now that the Middle School has 6th grade, there is no room for a health classroom. Today is a gold day, but also a “Late Arrival Wednesday” which always happens when they have an hour delay (or if it’s a Wednesday ;). Mrs. Kerr has 4 classes in the morning on these days, lunch, then 2 more classes. She teaches all of the grades so her days are a lot busier than other teachers. Most teachers teach a content to one grade, but here, Mrs. Kerr teaches it all. She will also be teaching PE in a month or two. Along with Mrs. Kerr, there is an intern working in the health field at the Middle School, Ms. Plant. She also attends UMF.

In the first class, 6th grade (Kineo Community), first thing a student got sent to the office for refusing to present his work. After Mrs. Kerr dealt with that, the class began discussing relationship (healthy vs. unhealthy) and recapping what they learning from the guest speaker who came. They all were given a small brochure, called “Hanging out or Hooking up?”, to look at and at the end of class they went online to browse a website that the brochure had mentioned.

In the second class, 6th grade (Redington Community), they discussed the same topics as the first 6th grade class.

The 7th grade class (Bigelow Community), had a guest speaker, Jen Bell, who spoke on sexting/child pornography.

The 8th grade class (Sugarloaf Community), did some fact/myth questions about sex, talked about forms of birth control, and an agree/neutral/disagree.

The other 8th grade class (Katahdin Community), did the same as the first 8th grade class except one student presented her research on a health related article she found. Had to stop class to silence students for chatter.

* “Is a hand job having sex?” –girl student
* “Ooo this condom even has ribs!” –Mrs. Kerr

The other 7th grade class (Saddleback Community), guest speaker again.

* “Ms. Jackson will be teaching a class, but probably not your class because you are the worst class. I wouldn’t wanna teach you…”
* “Be quiet”, **student growls,** **teacher growls back**

After classes were done for the day, we sat in the gym with the second bus group waiting for them to be called down to be dismissed.

Observation:

Phone out appropriate for teacher not students

No hats/hoods

Only one head phone in

Mrs. Kerr had extra pencils for students

No health room, health classes bounce around

Students chat a lot during class

Classes are different sizes

Saddleback has multiple misbehaving students

Students aren’t let out f class until the very last minute, but are supposed to be in their next class within that same time class ends

March 1, 2016

8:45AM

This morning I got to school and had homeroom like we do everyday. Take attendance and do the pledge of allegiance. Before students come to homeroom, they have the choice to walk around the building and socialize with their friends. It’s a way for students to have free time and get exercise before starting their day. Today, we had our first class in the cafeteria because Chorus was using the room we usually are in. Mrs. Kerr said this happens for first period every other day. This class played a trivia game about nutrition, boys versus girls. The girls ended up winning, but I think it was very eye opening listening to the students answer the questions because it really showed how little they knew about nutrition. It made me consider how much students need to be taught about eating right early in life so that when they become middle and high schoolers, they can begin to make their own decisions about being healthy.

In our next class, we had students that we don’t usually have because the normal class has fitness testing today, so as a result we are watching movies in this class today. I’m not complaining that I get to take notes and watch a movie for an hour. It’s my kind of morning, even though I’d much rather be asleep.

At the end of class, the students were talking too much and not paying attention, so Mrs. Kerr left me to make sure the students stayed in the classroom and behaved to some extent. One student who had to take a quiz in our last class ripped it up and threw it in the trash. I guess his way of showing he didn’t want to do it.

For most of the day, I just observed instead of being on my laptop.

* “Who’s your role model?... Paul Blart!”
* “You guys don’t care, so I’m not teaching you anymore”

March 3, 2016

8:00AM

Mrs. Kerr dressed up as elvis for Halloween one year

March 4, 2016

9:15AM

Mrs. Kerr gave me advice about getting a PE certification and that there is a PE praxis that is very technical and needs to be studied hard for.